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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/699,806	10/30/2000	David Tolpin	25310-1	8727

21186	7590	04/05/2005

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EXAMINER
HUTTON JR, WILLIAM D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2179	

DATE MAILED: 04/05/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 10/03)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>01 December 2004 and 03 January 2005</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-4 and 6-20</u> is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) <u>1-4 and 6-20</u> is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☒ The drawing(s) filed on <u>30 October 2000</u> is/are: a)☒ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6)☐ Other: _____.

Applicant's Response

In Applicant's Responses dated 1 December 2004 and 3 January 2005,

Applicant amended Claims 1, 7 and 14, cancelled Claim 5, and argued against all

objections and rejections previously set forth in the Final Rejection mailed on 28

September 2004.

All objections and rejections previously set forth are withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ferrel et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,860,073, in view of the admitted prior art

(hereinafter, Admission).

Claim 1:

Ferrel discloses a method of electronically rendering data on a computer

readable medium (see Figure 6), comprising:

- receiving one or more text objects (see element 382, Figure 6) and floating

    objects (see element 390, Figure 6) according to an input data format (objects

382 and 390 *inherently* have an "input data format" in that objects 382 and 390 are computer input and all computer input has a format);

- generating floating areas to house the floating objects (see Figure 6 – "floating areas" are generated to house floating objects 390 and 392 in Figure 6);

- outputting the floating areas at predetermined locations (see Column 17, Lines 57-60) according to an output data format (the "floating areas" *inherently* have an "output data format" in they are included on a web page that is displayed on a browser and all display objects that are output to a browser have a format);

- generating one or more textual areas to house the text objects, the textual areas comprising an outputted area where the floating areas have been removed (see Figure 6 – "textual areas" are generated to house text objects 382 and 386 in Figure 6; these textual areas comprise an "outputted area where the floating areas have been removed" in that the textual areas are located wherever the floating areas are not located); and

- outputting the textual areas adjacent to the floating areas (see Figure 6) according to the output data format (the "textual areas" *inherently* have an "output data format" in they are included on a web page that is displayed on a browser and all display objects that are output to a browser have a format).

Ferrel fails to expressly disclose:

- converting the floating areas according to an output data format, wherein the input data format is different from the output data format.

Admission teaches a method of electronically rendering data on a computer readable medium (see *Specification* – Page 1, Line 8 through Page 2, Line 11), comprising:

- generating floating areas that house floating objects (see *Specification* – Page 2, Lines 12-17); and

- converting the floating areas according to an output data format, wherein the input data format is different from the output data format (see *Specification* – Page 3, Line 18 through Page 4, Line 8 – Admission teaches this limitation in that the batch programming utilities translate a document layout from one format to another format; the documents handled by the batch programming utilities include floating objects such as graphics, images, audio and video),

for the purpose of better handling the complex layouts of the documents (see *Specification* – Page 4, Lines 3-6).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in Ferrel, to include:

- converting the floating areas according to an output data format, wherein the input data format is different from the output data format,

for the purpose of better handling the complex layouts of the documents, as taught by Admission.

Claim 2:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising:

- linking the textual areas creating a linked list of textual areas; and

- sequentially inserting the text objects into the linked list starting at a head of the list (see Figures 7 and 8; see Column 17, Line 61 through Column 20, Line 62 – the "textual areas" are linked to the respective "text objects" which are "sequentially inserted" into the "linked list" as specified through the project editor).

Claim 3:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising:

- linking the floating areas creating a linked list of floating areas; and

- sequentially inserting the floating objects into the linked list starting at a head of the list (see Figures 7 and 8; see Column 17, Line 61 through Column 20, Line 62 – the "floating areas" are linked to the respective "floating objects" which are "sequentially inserted" into the "linked list" as specified through the project editor).

Claim 4:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 1, wherein the floating areas and the textual areas are generated by forming geometric rectangles (see Figure 8).

Claim 6:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 1, further comprising:

- displaying the outputted floating areas and textual areas within a viewer (the

  "outputted" floating areas and textual areas are displayed "within a viewer" in that

  the user views the web page using a browser on a computer monitor).

Claims 7-11:

Claims 7-11 are for a computer system that performs the method of Claims 1-4

and 6, respectively. Thus, Ferrel, in view of Admission, disclose/teach every element of

Claims 7-11, as indicated in the above rejections for Claims 1-4 and 6.

Claim 12:

Ferrel discloses:

- wherein the defining is done by tagging the text objects and the floating objects

  with a markup language (see Column 2, Lines 5-17).

Claim 13:

Ferrel discloses:

- wherein the markup language is at least one of extended markup language,

  extended style sheets language, and portable document format (see Column 2,

  Lines 37-47).

Claim 14:

Ferrel discloses a method of electronically providing for a footnote body on a page (see Figures 6, 8 and 9), comprising:

- receiving one or more page objects including reference objects (380 and 384, Figure 6) and body objects (382 and 386, Figure 6);

- generating a body area located at the bottom of a page to house the body objects ("body areas" are generated at the "bottom" of a page to house body objects 382 and 386 in Figure 6);

- generating a reference area located above the body area to house the reference objects (a "reference area" located "above" the "body area" is generated to house reference objects 380 and 384 in Figure 6); and

- forming a reference geometric rectangle representing the reference area and a body geometric rectangle representing the body area (see Figure 8).

Ferrel fails to expressly disclose:

- wherein the input data format is different from the output data format.

Admission teaches a method of electronically rendering data on a computer readable medium (see *Specification* – Page 1, Line 8 through Page 2, Line 11), comprising:

- generating floating areas that house floating objects (see *Specification* – Page 2, Lines 12-17); and

- converting the floating areas according to an output data format, wherein the
  input data format is different from the output data format (see *Specification* –
  Page 3, Line 18 through Page 4, Line 8 – Admission teaches this limitation in that
  the batch programming utilities translate a document layout from one format to
  another format; the documents handled by the batch programming utilities
  include floating objects such as graphics, images, audio, video and the like),

for the purpose of better handling the complex layouts of the documents (see

Specification – Page 4, Lines 3-6).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in Ferrel, to include:

- wherein the input data format is different from the output data format,

for the purpose of better handling the complex layouts of the documents, as taught by

Admission.

Ferrel, in view of Admission, fails to expressly disclose/teach:

- expanding an area of the body geometric rectangle to accommodate an
  additional body object while deceasing a second area of the reference area
  maintaining an overall area associated with the page.

However, Ferrel teaches "body areas" and "reference areas" (see Figure 8) into which

"body objects" and "reference objects" can be poured. Ferrel also teaches amending

the "body areas" and "reference areas" of a style sheet with an editor (see Column 27,

Line 37 through Column 28, Line 51) for the purpose of insuring that a reference object

was properly displayed. Moreover, it was well-known by one of ordinary skill in the art

of document processing at the time the invention was made to adjust "body areas" and

"reference areas" of a page in the document (see Hayashi et al., U.S. Patent No.

5,600,771 – Column 1, Lines 11-50) in order to include a footnote reference on the

same page that it is cited.

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the method, disclosed in Ferrel, in view of

Admission, to include the step of expanding an area of the body geometric rectangle to

accommodate an additional body object while deceasing a second area of the reference

area maintaining an overall area associated with the page for the purpose of insuring

that a reference object was properly displayed, as taught by Ferrel.

Claim 15:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 14, further comprising:

- displaying the reference geometric rectangle area and the body geometric

  rectangle area in a browser (see Figure 6).

Claim 16:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 14, further comprising:

- delivering the page including the reference geometric rectangle area and the

  body geometric rectangle area to at least one of a browser and a printer in a

  markup language defining the page (see Figure 6).

Claim 17:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 16, wherein the markup language is at least

one of extended markup language, extended style sheets language, and portable

document format (see Column 2, Lines 37-47).

Claim 18:

Ferrel discloses the method of Claim 16, wherein the delivering the page occurs

as reference objects and body objects are piped to a set of executable instructions

operable to insert the markup language representing a displayed page (this

automatically occurs because the reference invention operates on a computer).

Claims 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Ferrel, in view of Admission, and further in view of Cuan et al., U.S. Patent No.

4,503,515.

Claim 19:

As indicated in the above discussion, Ferrel, in view of Admission,

discloses/teaches every element of Claim 14. Ferrel also discloses objects that are

"reference objects" (see Table 2 in Column 23).

Ferrel, in view of Admission, fails to expressly disclose/teach:

- associating automatically a reference tag of the reference object with a text

   description of the body object.

Cuan teaches:

- associating automatically a reference tag of the reference object with a text

   description of the body object (see Figures 1-7),

for the purposes of providing a smooth flow of information to a reader at different

locations within a document and managing footnotes upon printout (see Column 1, Line

26 through Column 2, Line 35).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the method of electronically providing for a

footnote body on a page, disclosed in Ferrel, in view of Admission, to include the step of

associating automatically a reference tag of the reference object with a text description

of the body object for the purposes of providing a smooth flow of information to a reader

at different locations within a document and managing footnotes upon printout, as

taught by Cuan.

Claim 20:

Ferrel, in view of Admission, fails to expressly disclose/teach a reference tag that

is a numeric character which is automatically incremented with each new reference tag.

Cuan teaches a reference tag that is a numeric character which is automatically

incremented with each new reference tag (see Figures 1-7 and Column 1, Line 26

through Column 2, Line 35) for the purposes of providing automatic footnote numbering

and updating (see Column 1, Line 26 through Column 2, Line 35).

Accordingly, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at

the time the invention was made to modify the method of electronically providing for a

footnote body on a page, disclosed in Ferrel, in view of Admission, to include the step of

providing a reference tag that is a numeric character which is automatically incremented

with each new reference tag for the purposes of providing automatic footnote numbering

and updating, as taught by Cuan.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to Claims 1, 7 and 14 have been considered

but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. However, to advance

prosecution of the application, the examiner will comment on Applicant's arguments.

Applicants arguments for Claims 1, 7 and 14:

Applicant has amended the claims to recite that the input data format is

converted to an output data format that is different from the input data format. Applicant

recognizes that the format of an electronic document is easily converted from one

format to another, thus Applicant argues that Ferrel cannot be modified with a standard

conversion application because to do so would require a complicated style conversion.

Applicant argues further that a standard conversion application would not integrate into

Ferrel because Ferrel discloses that an existing presentation of a certain data format is

modified to create an entirely new presentation layout for that certain data format. See

Applicant's Response , dated 1 December 2004 – Pages 6 and 7.

The examiner has used the teachings of Admission to make a 103 rejection for

the claims. The "batch programming utilities" used to make the rejection are not

"standard conversion applications." Instead, the "batch programming utilities" are

written to convert specific documents from one layout format to another layout format.

Thus, a batch programming utility may be written to convert the layout format of a

document - that has been modified by the methods disclosed in Ferrel - to another

layout format.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-
4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00
PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH
April 3, 2005

DOUG HUTTON
PATENT EXAMINER
TECH CENTER 2100